U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Whitney Genetics Laboratory

Station Facts

- Established April, 2013
- Six permanent employees
- Provides science support and development to help control and manage four Asian carp species
- Uses eDNA techniques to help prevent bighead and silver carp from establishing sustainable populations in the Great Lakes
- Uses flow cytometry techniques to monitor grass carp and black carp reproductive status in U.S. waters
- Works with numerous federal, state, local, and private partners to complete mission
- Supports the local group Friends of the Upper Mississippi

Contact Information

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CONSERVING AMERICA'S fisheries

Who We Are

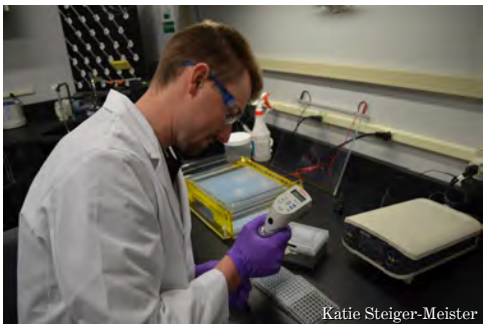
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program has played a vital role in conserving America's fisheries since 1871, partnering with States, Tribes, Federal agencies, other Service programs, and private interests in efforts to conserve fish and other aquatic resources. The Fisheries Program provides a broad network of on-the-ground expertise that is unique in its geographic coverage, its array of scientific capabilities, and its ability to work strategically, across political and jurisdictional boundaries.

How We Help

The potential invasion of Asian carp is the biggest aquatic invasive species threat facing the Great Lakes and some other U.S. waters today. Four species of Asian carps: the highly invasive bighead and silver carps, and the potentially damaging black and grass carps are concerning to resource managers. State, local, and federal agencies are using the best science and technologies available to prevent Asian carp from degrading sensitive waters in the United States.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Supported by the President's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.


Katie Steiger-Meister

eDNA testing

Whitney Genetics Laboratory uses environmental DNA (eDNA) testing of water samples for early detection of Asian carp in the Chicago Area Waterway System and is working towards providing early detection in the Great Lakes, Mississippi and Ohio river systems.

Flow cytometry is used in the laboratory to determine the reproductive status of wild-caught grass carp and black carp. This helps managers estimate impact potential on habitats.

Laboratory staff participates in development of new scientific methods to help meet the management goals of the Service and its partners. These methods are shared with other professionals through publications, presentations, and teaching.


Becky Lasee

Whitney Genetics Laboratory